






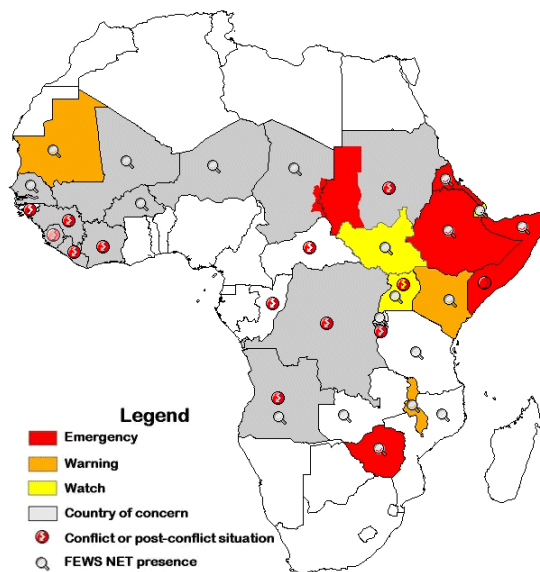
## FEWS NET Alert Status

## Alerts: Food Insecurity in Africa

### Highest Priority—Urgent Action Required

### Emergency

-  **Chad:** A combined shortfall of around 9,138 MT (cereals and pulses) in emergency food aid is expected in the Chadian refugee camps over the next 4.5 months. This is likely to exacerbate already high malnutrition rates. Fire-wood shortages limit refugees' ability to cook rations.
-  **Ethiopia:** Emergency food needs in Ethiopia have risen, with 7.8 million people requiring assistance through the end of 2004, up from 7.1 million. Despite the worsening situation, less than half of emergency non-food needs have been funded this year, including critical seed programs.
-  **Eritrea:** Poor rains and input availability have adversely affected crop production this year, particularly in Gash Barka, eastern Debub and most parts of Maekel Zones.
-  **Somalia:** Over 1.2 million Somalis in both agricultural and pastoral areas will require emergency food aid until April 2005. Pre-famine conditions are present, with only 50-70% of needed food aid resources covered.
-  **Zimbabwe:** Higher than expected staple prices mean that more than the predicted 2.3 million rural people are likely to need in excess of 178,000 MT of food assistance. The humanitarian response has been limited so far.






### Special Focus: Locusts in the Sahel

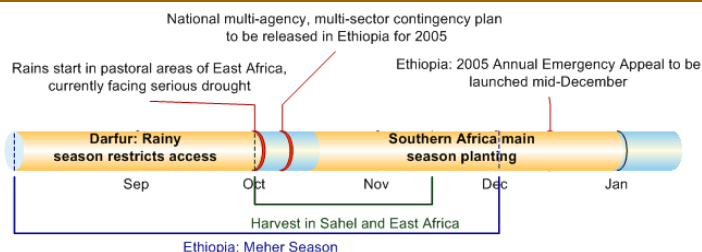
A series of recent field missions in the Sahel found that localized and accurate targeting of assistance will be essential in order to cope with the effects of the locusts, but large scale food emergencies are not expected. If damage is contained over the next few weeks, the Sahelian countries may have above average harvests. Joint-agency assessments (including FAO, CILSS, FEWS NET and WFP) will be conducted in October to determine crop losses and to estimate needs.

### Urgent Action Required

### Warning




-  **Kenya:** A 47% shortfall in resources for the ongoing emergency response is limiting assistance to about 2.3 million people who need food aid until January 2005. In August 2004, Global Acute Malnutrition rates of 26% were recorded in Mandera.
-  **Malawi:** WFP will run out of stocks by mid-October, leaving a shortfall of 10,000 MT between now and December. Donors and government officials met on September 18 to discuss response options.
-  **Mauritania:** Locusts now threaten most arable parts of the country. Although households in southern areas may partially offset losses through increased reliance on gifts, loans, and purchases, close monitoring is essential.

### Critical Events Timeline









### Preparedness and Increased Monitoring Required

### Watch

-  **Djibouti:** The failure of the main rains and high staple food prices are threatening food security in three zones.
-  **Sudan (southern):** Below normal seasonal flooding is putting at risk up to 50% of annual food sources (in the form of fish, wild foods, milk/meat) for households in Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile.
-  **Uganda:** Despite improvements in security, humanitarian conditions amongst the northern displaced are still poor. The drought in Karamoja continues to be monitored.

### Key

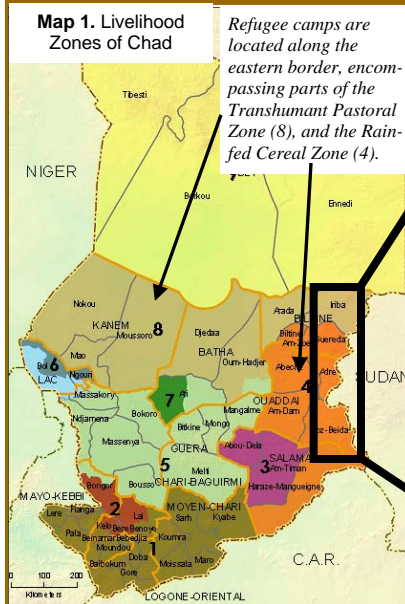
-  Situation improving  Numbers decreasing
-  Situation deteriorating  Numbers increasing
-  Caution: the situation has the potential to deteriorate  Numbers stable

Country	Population at Risk	Food Aid Beneficiaries	
		Number	Trend
Chad	(refugees) 200,000	(refugees in camps) 197,000	↑
Djibouti	100,000	59,000 (21,307 are refugees)	↑
Eritrea	1.9 million	1.4 million	→
Ethiopia	9.8 million	(August) 7.8 million	↑
Kenya	2.34 million	2.34 million	↑
Malawi	1.3-1.7 million	To be determined	→
Mauritania	1 million	285,000	→
Somalia	1.2 million	700,000 (Sep—Dec)	↑
Uganda	1.98 million	1.98 million	→
Zimbabwe	4.8 million	N/A	↑

More information on the web: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)

Tensions between refugees and the host population increase  
as competition for scarce resources intensifies

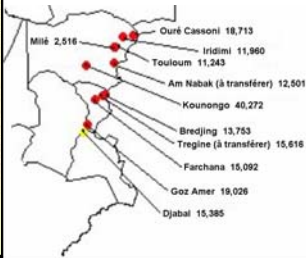
Map 1. Livelihood Zones of Chad



Refugee camps are located along the eastern border, encompassing parts of the Transhumant Pastoral Zone (8), and the Rain-fed Cereal Zone (4).

Since early 2003, refugees from Darfur have flooded into neighboring eastern Chad, escaping the ongoing genocide inflicted on their home areas by the Government of Sudan and the Janjawid militia. There are currently about 197,000 refugees from Darfur in Chad, and United Nations (UN) officials expect the arrival of another 100,000 if the situation in Sudan worsens. When refugees first arrived, the local population provided generous hospitality, sharing food, water and shelter. But as the months wear on, and in the midst of an unusually dry year, resources essential for survival—water, food, firewood, and pasture—are becoming increasingly scarce. While many of the refugees have moved to UN camps, where they are no longer drawing down on host population reserves, their presence nevertheless continues to place serious burdens on local households.

Camp locations/refugee numbers



The influx of refugees has doubled the population in the area over the last sixteen months, affecting every aspect of the local population's livelihood base. Refugee camps have been established in sparsely populated areas of Chad, where people rely heavily on livestock for both direct consumption and sales. Cross-border trade opportunities with Sudan have always been an important aspect of the local economy, with animals from Chad sold or traded in exchange for manufactured products, rice, sugar and fuel from Sudan. Households in the southern zone (*Rain-fed Cereal Zone*) are generally more reliant on their own crop production than those in the northern zone (*Transhumant Pastoral Zone*), with households in the northern areas capitalizing more heavily on trade and their livestock. (See Figure 1).

Map 2. Rainfall June-September 2004 as a percent of normal

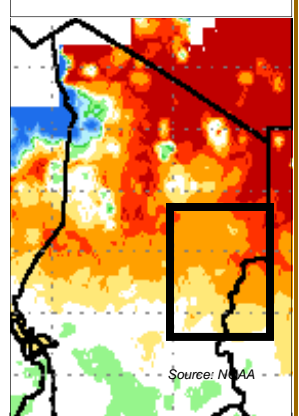
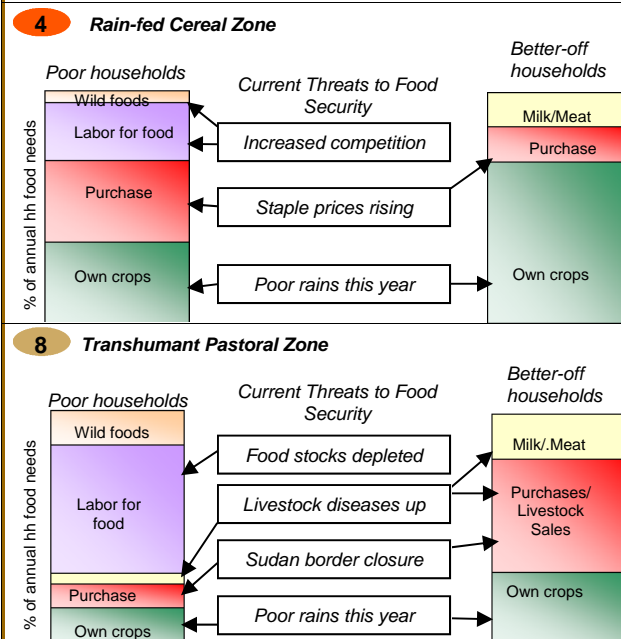


Figure 1. Threats to normal sources of food this year



Source: FEWS NET Draft Livelihood Profiles of Chad, 2004

3%. The dry conditions this year have not helped. With the prospects for a below-average harvest on the horizon, the host population is becoming less tolerant of the perceived and real stresses created by the refugee population. While refugees inside camps are living with undeniable hardship, they nevertheless appear to have exclusive rights to whatever humanitarian assistance is available. Host households, who find themselves without food, having shared their stocks last year, see this as unfair. Dry conditions this year have limited water and pasture availability. This, along with an increase in livestock diseases (reportedly transferred from the Sudanese animals to host livestock), has put at risk host households' most important asset—their livestock. As competition for scarce resources increases, tensions are mounting. Aid officials report an increasing violence towards women refugees who venture outside the camps to find water and firewood. To stem the violence and meet the growing local needs, the GoC/UN mission recommended that 20,000 MT of emergency food assistance be distributed to around 157,000 people living in Adré, Goz Beida, Am-Dam, Guereda, Iriba and Bahai. A response to this appeal, and further monitoring are essential over the coming dry season.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) is a USAID-funded activity that monitors and reports on food insecurity conditions in 20 countries in Africa, as well as Afghanistan, while strengthening regional and national early warning and food security organizations through networking and capacity development. This summary is based on FEWS NET regular monitoring and reporting and provides executive decision-makers with an overview of the food security situation in Africa, focusing on countries covered by FEWS NET as well as non-FEWS NET countries (where possible). Countries currently under 'Alert' are highlighted and prioritized for urgent action. More detailed alert statements are available for the countries in this Executive Overview can be found on the FEWS NET website at [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net). For further information contact William Whelan at USAID/DCHA/FFP (202-712-5001) or Roy Stacy at Chemonics International (202-955-7595), or email [info@fews.net](mailto:info@fews.net).